

## Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute, Hampton, Va.

**G**EN. SAMUEL CHAPMAN ARMSTRONG founded Hampton Institute, April, 1868, under the auspices of the American Missionary Association.

He had been for two years agent of the Freedmen's Bureau on the Virginia Peninsula.

Born at Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii, January 30, 1839, he was educated in the Hawaiian public schools and at Williams College, Mass. Graduating from Williams in June, 1862, he entered the Union Army in August, 1862, as captain in the One Hundred and Twenty-Fifth New York Volunteers. He took command of the Ninth United States colored troops in the fall of 1863, and was mustered out in November, 1865, as brevet brigadier-general of volunteers.

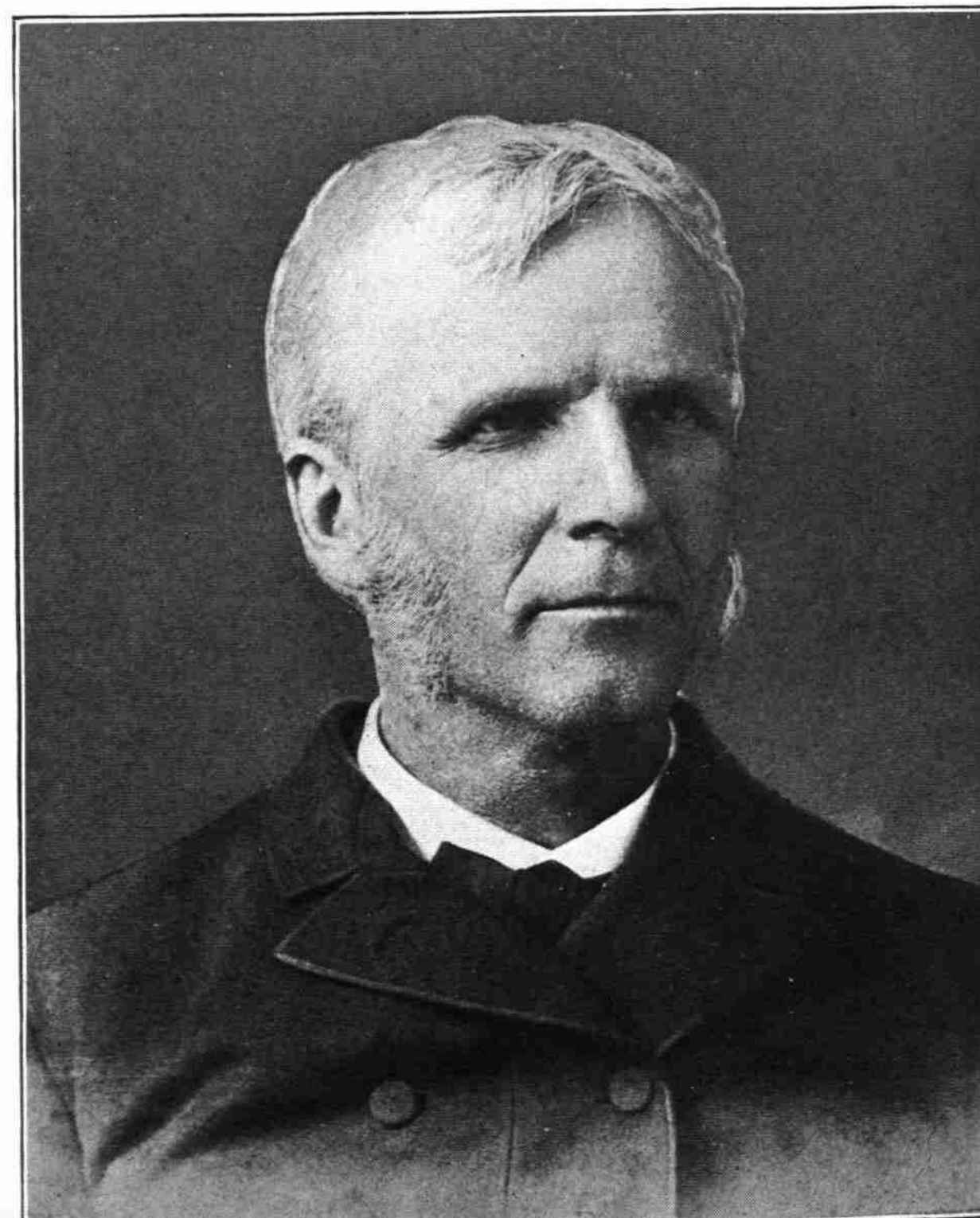
In March, 1866, he succeeded Capt. C. B. Wilder, of Boston, as officer of the Freedmen's Bureau, with headquarters at Hampton, Va.

He was on historic ground. Close at hand the pioneer settlers of America and the first slaves landed on this continent; here Powhatan reigned; here the Indian was first met; here the first Indian child was baptized; here freedom was first given the slaves by General Butler's famous "contraband" order; in sight of this shore the battle of the *Monitor* and *Merrimac* saved the Union and revolutionized naval warfare; here General Grant based the operations of his final campaign.

In speaking of his early experience at Hampton, General Armstrong said: "I found an active, excellent educational work going on under the American Missionary Association of New York. This society in 1862 had opened in the vicinity the first school for freedmen in the South, in charge of an ex-slave, Mrs. Mary Peake. Over fifteen hundred children were gathered daily, some in old hospital barracks. The largest class was held in the Butler school building, since replaced by the John G. Whittier schoolhouse.

"I soon felt the fitness of this historic and strategic spot for a permanent and great educational work. The suggestion was cordially received by the American Missionary Association, which authorized the purchase, in June, 1867, of "Little Scotland," an estate of one hundred and twenty-five acres on Hampton River, looking out over Hampton Roads. Not ex-

pecting to have charge, but only to help, I was surprised one day by a letter from Secretary E. P. Smith, of the American Missionary Association, stating that the man selected for the place had declined, and asking me if I could take it. I replied 'Yes.' Till then my own future had been blind; it had only been clear that there was a work to be done for the ex-slaves and where and how it should be done."



**GEN. SAMUEL CHAPMAN ARMSTRONG, LL.D.**

Founder of Hampton Institute, Hampton, Va. Born, January 30, 1839, died, May 11, 1893.

General Armstrong continued at Hampton until his death, May 11, 1893. A grave in the school cemetery marks, with its Williams granite slab, and its Hawaiian tufa, the last resting place of this friend of humanity, who clearly saw that "what the colored people need is not Greek culture of the head, not chiefly a knowledge of history and literature, but enough training of the brain to make them think well, control their lower desires, and love their fellow-men, but mainly industrial training, steadiness and mastery of trades, loving skillful use of hands and eyes and voice."